

## VOTE OF THANKS DR. A. B. CHATTERJEA

Deputy Director,  
National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Kedar Pandey, Shri R. S. Pandey, Shri Bhaya, Prof. Altekar, Distinguished Delegates and Guests.

It is indeed a matter of immense gratification and honour to have had with us Hon'ble Shri Kedar Pandey, Chief Minister of Bihar for inaugurating the International Symposium on "Science and Technology of Sponge Iron and its Conversion to Steel", despite his multifarious activities. Endowed with large resources of minerals, Bihar has the potential for industrial development. Several industrial estates are being created for the small scale industries to manufacture various consumer goods and to provide employment. The Hon'ble Ministers abiding faith in Industrial Development as a means to achieve self-reliance and for a self-generating economy is well known. Under Hon'ble Shri Kedar Pandey's dynamic leadership, Bihar is steadily marching forward towards an improvement on economic status.

We are profited from the speech of the Hon'ble Minister covering certain aspects of iron and steel industry, and we are indeed very happy to have the compliments for the research and developmental work done at the National Metallurgical Laboratory. It is my pleasure and privilege to convey on behalf of the staff of NML and on my personal behalf our grateful thanks to the Hon'ble Shri Kedar Pandey. We are grateful to Shri R. S. Pandey for his kind compliments to N.M.L.

We are indeed grateful to Shri H. Bhaya, Chairman of the Hindustan Steel Ltd. for agreeing to address this gathering during the inaugural function. Under his dynamic leadership and implementation of bold decisions, the existing steel plants of the HSL are marching forward.

We are also delighted to have so many overseas delegates in our midst. We are indebted to all those countries which responded favourably to our invitation and deputed internationally reputed experts on sponge iron. I am sure, that due to their contributions in their specialised areas, the deliberations of the Symposium will be interesting and profitable. On behalf of the staff

of the NML and my own behalf, I wish to convey our gratitude to this galaxy of overseas delegates.

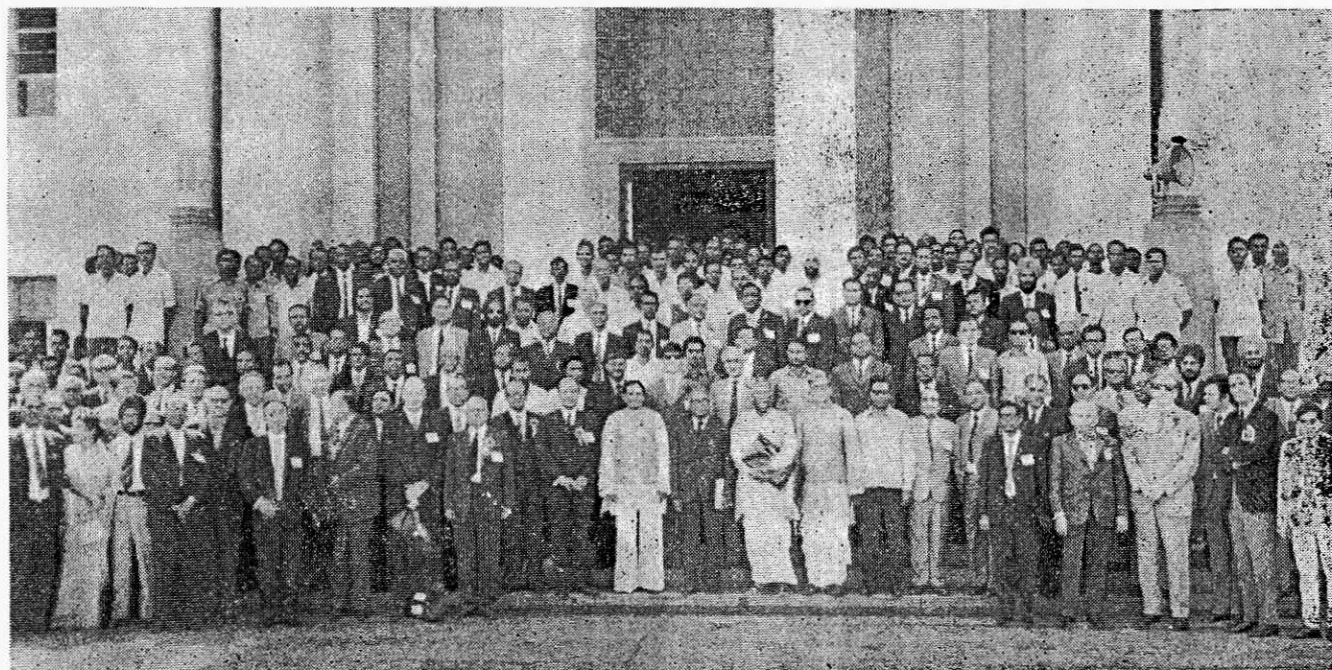
I would like to express my sincere happiness to have so many participants from different concerns of India in our midst. Although we have endeavoured to cater to the comforts of all the delegates, the amenities of this town are rather limited. We are conscious of our inefficiencies, deficiencies or short-comings, and we sincerely hope that they will disregard any inconvenience caused to them. On behalf of the staff of the NML I wish to thank all of you for participating in this seminar.

Now I wish to read several messages which we have received. At the beginning, I have the pleasure to read the message which we have received from Shri V. V. Giri, the President of India: (quote) "I am glad to know that an International Symposium on Science and Technology of Sponge Iron and its Conversion to Steel' will be held at the National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur, from the 19th February, 1973. I offer my greetings and best wishes to the delegates and hope that Symposium would provide meaningful guidelines for augmenting the production of steel" (unquote).

Now I will read another message which we have received from the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Smt. Indira Gandhi. (quote) "I am glad to know that an International Symposium on 'Science and Technology of Sponge Iron and its Conversion to Steel' is being held in Jamshedpur this month. I offer my good wishes for the success of its deliberations" (unquote).

Another message from Hon'ble Shri S. Mohan Kumaramangalam, Minister of Steel & Mines reads as follows: (quote) "I am happy to note that the NML is organising a Symposium on 'Science and Technology of Sponge Iron and its Conversion to Steel'.

The direct reduction process has a significant place in the future of steelmaking. Metalised lumpy ore, pellets and briquettes have been attracting considerable attention in the recent years all over the world. The gaseous reduction



**Group photograph of the delegates.**

process has been commercially established but direct reduction by solid reductants is yet to fully emerge as a reliable process, that is exploitable for commercial purposes.

So far as India is concerned, we would certainly benefit greatly from a break through that can establish the utility of solid reductant for direct reduction. We have little gas, but a great deal of coal. Hence the pioneering effort of the National Metallurgical Laboratory in this direction which takes particular account of the specifications and constituents of our iron ore on the one hand and our coal in the other deserves support. I wish it all success.

I am glad to note that Experts in this field from various countries are participating in this Symposium and contributing technical papers. I am sure that the conclusions arrived at in the course of discussions in the Symposium will speed up our progress in this field". (unquote).

To all the distinguished delegates and guests who have assembled here this morning, I wish to express our gratitude once again for gracing the inaugural function with their presence and giving us the pleasure of their company.

To arrange for an International Symposium in this city without the assistance of the various companies will be an impossible task. We are

deeply indebted to the Management of the Tata Iron & Steel Company Ltd., The Tata Engineering and Locomotive Co. of India Ltd., The Indian Tube Company Ltd., The Tinsplate Company of India Ltd., The Indian Cable Company Ltd., and McNally Bharat for placing their Directors' bungalows or the Guest House at our disposal for accommodating the delegates of the Symposium, for hosting a lunch or dinner and also for placing their vehicles at our disposal. On behalf of the NML I wish to convey my most indebted thanks to the Management of these Companies.

I wish to convey my indebtedness to the Management of T.R.F., Usha Martin Black (Wire Ropes) Ltd., Tata Yodogawa and Rainbow Steel for hosting Tea.

To the Members of the Press, I would like to express my thanks for accepting our invitation to cover this inaugural function. I would request them to please attend the technical deliberations of the Symposium and go round the laboratory to collect first hand information about the contributions of this laboratory towards the industrial development of our country.

I also wish to thank the Station Director of the All India Radio, Ranchi for all arrangements to cover this function within a short time.

Lastly coming to NML, howsoever formal it may appear, I wish to avail this opportunity to



thank Prof. V. A. Altekhar for his dynamic efforts for enhancing the reputation of the laboratory.

I wish to sincerely thank all the staff members of the laboratory, too numerous to name for their cooperation and assistance. I, however, wish to mention about Dr. Y. N. Trehan, Asstt. Director, Dr. S. S. Bhatnagar, Asstt. Director, and Shri Faqir Chand, Administrative Officer for giving me all the assistance and support for organising the Symposium.

In this connection I wish to make a very

special mention of Shri P. V. K. Iyer, who has carried the burden of the Secretariat load connected with the Symposium on his frail, but firm shoulders. I convey my sincere thanks to him.

With these few words, Ladies and Gentlemen, I now request you to kindly show our appreciation to Hon'ble Kedar Pandey, Chief Minister of Bihar for inaugurating this Symposium in the usual way.

I thank you, one and all.



### **SESSION I - INTRODUCTORY SESSION**

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**Monday, 19 February, 1973**

The Session was convened at 11.45 A. M. The Chairman was Mr. Shintaro Tabata, Executive Director, Iron & Steel Institute of Japan, Japan, the Co-Chairman was Mr. P. K. Chakrabarty, Assistant General Superintendent (Iron & Steel), Tata Iron & Steel Co. Ltd., Jamshedpur and the Rapporteur was Mr. S. Das Gupta, Metallurgical Engineer, M. N. Dastur & Co. P. Ltd, Calcutta.